# Nekota no Koto ga ki ni Natte Shikatanai.
## ch16

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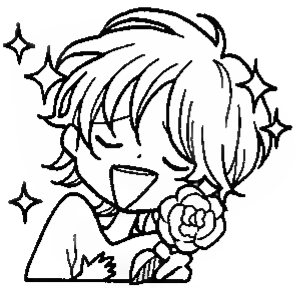
猫田のことが
気になって仕方ない。
Chapter
16

MELOS WAS ENRAGED!!
MELOS WAS ENRAGED!!
IT HAS BEGUN.
AMANE-SAN IS CHANTING HER LINES OUT LIKE IT'S A SUTRA.
mutter
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN
backstage



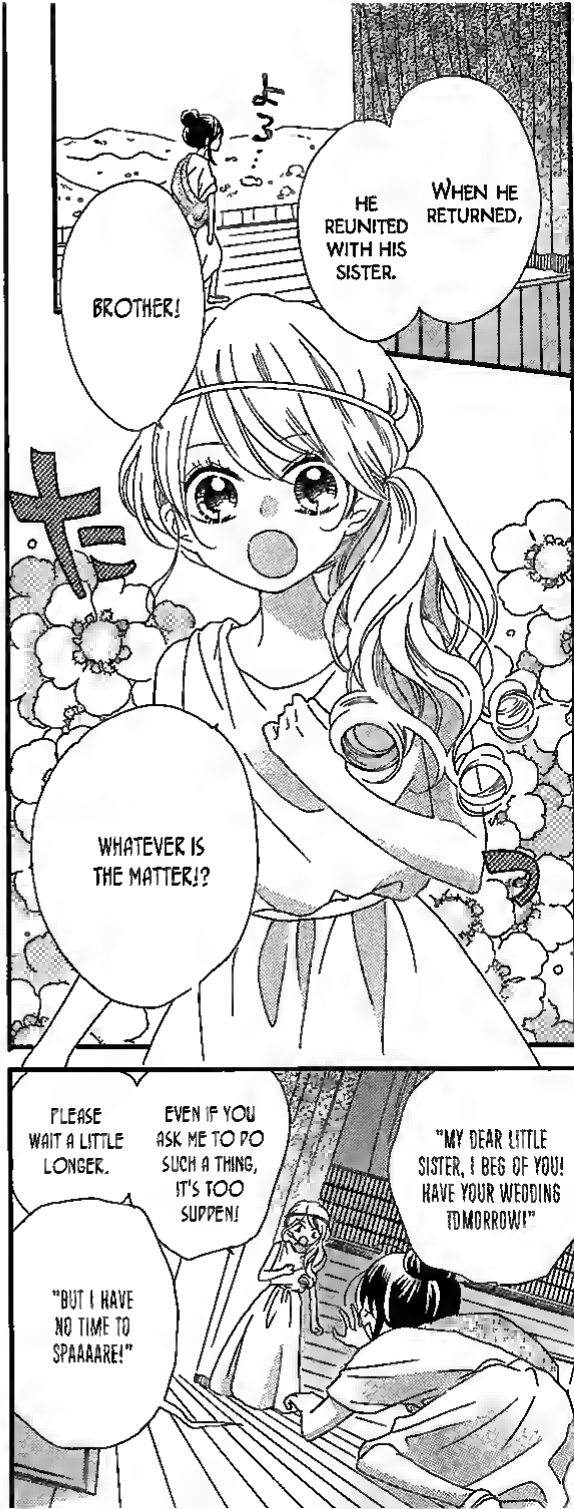
For the sake of Melos-kun.
For the sake of becoming friends with Melos-kun.
...
In a mysterious pose.
Trading her mind
I will do this!!
AMANE-SAN!
Y-y-y-
YOU'LL BE FINE!!
YOU PRACTICED A LOT YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE THAT!
HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE AND LET'S GO!!

HAHA!
YOU'RE A LOT MORE NERVOUS THAN I AM, MACHAKO!!
THANK YOU!
LET'S DO OUR BEST!!
YES!!
MELOS, YOU'RE ON!
IT'S THE SCENE WHERE YOU BECOME ENRAGED AT THE KING AND YOU ENTER HIS CASTLE!
Yes!
Looks like they've relaxed...

"THIS IS UNFORGIV-ABLE!"
"YOUR MAJESTY! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?"
Humans are not to be trusted!
You... too,
value your own life, do you not?
I HEARD SHE'S A STAND-IN.
IS MELOS BEING PLAYED BY A GIRL?
The one who's playing the King is so good-looking!
I'm so happyyyy
His long-awaited entrance
KYAAAAA! Irie-kun
Hey
IS THE KING SUPPOSED TO BE THAT NARCISSISTIC?
Well, it's very Irie-like though
do you really think a small bird that escaped will return to its cage?
Ha!
A part of me wants to believe you, however
"GRANT ME THREE DAYS! ALLOW ME TO ATTEND MY ONE AND ONLY SISTER'S WEDDING!"

My best friend ...
Macha... nuntius
is in this city!!
Ma... Macha-nuntius?
EEEEEEEEEH
She joined them to-gether!!!
Machako
Selfnuntius
!?
I SHALL HOLD THIS MACHANUNTIUS FRIEND OF YOURS AS MY HOSTAGE.
VERY WELL ...
AND MELOS,
YOU ARE TO RETURN HERE ON THE THIRD DAY BEFORE SUNDOWN.
あ...
SHOULD YOU BE EVEN A LITTLE LATE, I WILL HAVE HIM KILLED.
HIS FATE LIES IN YOUR HANDS.
SLIM
He also called him Macha-nuntius!!
Also
That line, he's way too in char-acter.

"FORGIVE ME, MACHA-NUNTIUS!
BUT I PROMISE YOU I WILL RETURN HERE IN THREE DAYS WITHOUT FAIL!"
THEN IT'S A PROMISE!
I BELIEVE IN YOU!
MELOS RAN BACK TO HIS HOME-TOWN.
Some-how,
we got through the first Act...
Has she noticed him yet?
Kasai ...!


WHEN HE RETURNED,
HE REUNITED WITH HIS SISTER.
BROTHER!
WHATEVER IS THE MATTER!?
"MY DEAR LITTLE SISTER, I BEG OF YOU! HAVE YOUR WEDDING TOMORROW!"
EVEN IF YOU ASK ME TO DO SUCH A THING, IT'S TOO SUDDEN!
PLEASE WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
"BUT I HAVE NO TIME TO SPAAAARE!"

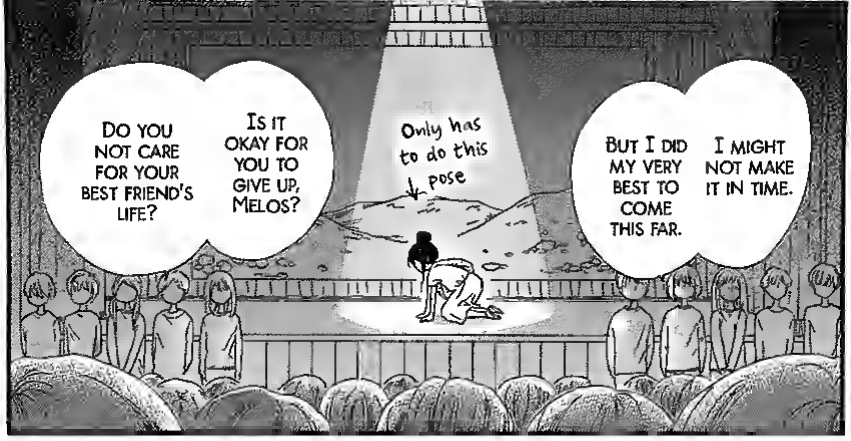
CONGRA-TULATIONS ON YOUR MARRIAGE!
CONGRATU-LATIONS!
THANK YOU!
THE GIRL WHO'S PLAYING THE BRIDE IS SO CUTE!
Woo!
Congratu-lations!
"SISTER! PLEASE BE HAPPY!"
THANK YOU, DEAR BROTHER.
I must say Having Mikki play my brother feels kinda weird...
I think I should have... went for the role of the groom...

Time to beat up these bandits!
FOR THE SAKE OF HIS BEST FRIEND WHO IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD HOSTAGE,
MELOS HURRIED BACK TO THE CASTLE.
UUUO OHH!
to RYAA AAA!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
Now I must swim to cross the river!

She's doing well somehow...?

You can do it, Amane san!!

All that's left is that scene where I return to the castle in the second half of the play!
Yes!
I don't have many lines to say in this part.


DO YOU NOT CARE FOR YOUR BEST FRIEND'S LIFE?
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO GIVE UP, MELOS?
Only has to do this pose
BUT I DID MY VERY BEST TO COME THIS FAR.
I MIGHT NOT MAKE IT IN TIME.

Every-thing's fine!!
I was like that once too!!
You'll feel like giving up, huh.
yep yep

THE DAY OF YOUR EXECUTION HAS FINALLY ARRIVED.
THE SUN WILL SET VERY SOON.
In this way,
I can keep going!!
WAIT!
DAYTIME HAS YET TO END...!!
I KNEW MELOS WOULD NOT RETURN.
SEE?

Mua ha ha ha
DO YOU REALIZE IT NOW?
IT IS FOOLISH TO HAVE FAITH IN PEOPLE!
That kind of Irie-kun is also lovely.
"WAIT!
IT IS I! MELOS!
JUST LIKE I PROMISED, I HAVE RETURNED!"
MELOS!! YOU...
ARE YOU REALLY MELOS!?

"YES!"
.....
Huh?
?
What
was my next line?
Silence
Oh no, I totally forgot!!
Is it because I relaxed earlier!?
Uh...
Ummm...

I-
I have returned~
SEE? I have returned~!
Don't tell me
she completely forgot!?
THAT GIRL....!
I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG?
MAYBE SHE FORGOT HER LINES.
W-
What should I do!!!
My head keeps blanking out the more I panic!!
B-
BECAUSE I AM MELOOOOS
AMANE!

Huh?
Neko-ta!
Read it!
Could that be a cue card!?
You are not mistaken, I am Melos! In order to keep the promise I made with my best friend and to get myself killed, I have returned to this castle. Now come! Kill meeeee!
AH...
"YOU ARE NOT MISTAKEN, I'M MELOS!"
Is it okay if I read that!?

"IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PROMISE I MADE WITH MY BEST FRIEND
AND TO GET MYSELF KILLED"
Monotone...?
Nekota!
I HAVE RETURNED TO THIS CASTLE!"
"NOW COME! KILL MEEEEEE!"
Silence
Where are you looking...?

Damn it
It's difficult to see the letters at this distance. Not to mention, it's also dark.
UMMMM
UH....
that...
Is...

Melos-kun!?

He came!?

That's right.

For

"I have no interest"

what reason did I...

I—

I DOUBTED YOU AT LEAST ONCE!!

PLEASE... PUNCH ME!!

Try to remember, Amane-san!

Ah

"It's fine to do what you like"

I

ALMOST GAVE UP TOO.
BUT
BECAUSE EVERYONE HELPED
AND ENCOURAGED ME
I WAS ABLE TO HANG IN THERE!
!?
Look, this
I MAY BE A GIRL
AND THEY MAY BE BOYS BUT

THEY ARE
FRIENDS WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO ME!!
THAT'S WHY IT'S OKAY!!
"it's okay"??
"They"!?
is "my"

Melos!!
A...
AMANE-SA...
DOES
...
BOYS AND GIRLS
CAN BE FRIENDS WITH EACH OTHER!!!
!?
You are not mistaken, I am Melos! In order to keep the promise I made with my best friend and to get myself killed, I have returned to this

THAT MEAN I CAN BE FRIENDS WITH YOU TOO?
forget that I exist, right?
You won't
hap-
pens
Whatever happens
Please! Let me join your group of friends too!!
(is serious)
Your gender and social status doesn't matter when it comes to friendship!
I am touched by the friendship you both share!!
Y-
Your Majesty!!
Oh yeah, the story's plot was about that!!
Good job, Irie!!

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING SORT OF FELL INTO PLACE AT THE END.
WELL, MELOS WAS BEING PLAYED BY A GIRL.
MAYBE THAT WAS THE MESSAGE THEY WERE TRYING TO CONVEY.
I GUESS IT WORKED OUT IN ITS OWN WAY.
HA HA HA!
SURE!!
JEEZ...
SHE EVEN MADE ME FEEL ANXIOUS...
パチ
パチ

!!!
パチ パチ パチ
GOOD WORK!!
You know
I didn't know what was gonna happen back there
but we managed to get it done somehow so I'm glad!!
NO KIDDING...

Yes yes
IT'S all THANKS TO EVERYONE!!
Nekota helped me out with his cue card.
Irie and Machako backed me up, too.
Naturally
Haruna was so cute
SORRY, I HAVE TO USE THE REST-ROOM...
OKay
KASAI!

YOU...
SO YOU CAME, HUH.
I FEEL BAD FOR YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN DECLARED A FRIEND RIGHT ON STAGE.
...ABOUT THAT,
I'VE ALREADY COME TO THINK THAT IT'S FINE IF THINGS STAYED THE WAY THEY ARE.
...HUH?
I AM WELL AWARE THAT AMANE-SAN WON'T BE INTERESTED IN ME ROMANTICALLY...

BUT IF AMANE-SAN TRUSTS ME AS A "FRIEND"
THEN
I'LL DO THE SAME FOR HER TOO...
WHAT?
ARE YOU TRYING TO LOOK COOL?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO...
THAT'S WHAT AMANE-SAN WOULD WANT RIGHT NOW.
ANYWAY, I THINK

A-
ALSO!
turn
DESPITE HOW IT SEEMS, AMANE-SAN
WORKED REALLY HARD
AFTER BECOMING YOUR STAND-IN!!
...I
JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT...
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY ANNOYING.
SHE'S
NOT A NORMAL "GIRL"
AND IT'S LIKE, SHE'S A HUGE PAIN TO DEAL WITH.
I UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH.

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
DOES THAT MEAN...
YOU AND NEKOTA
STILL HAVE STRANGE TASTES.

You did great,
Machako.
N
NEKO-ta!?
Did you hear eve-ryth...
SORRY, BUT JUST NOW,
YOU WERE SO COOL THAT
IT MADE ME WANT TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT.

...WHAT THE HECK.
YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH...
6 - 1
Bye
Byee
What!?
MELOS ALREADY WENT HOME!?
AND HERE I WAS, THINKING TO LAUNCH AN ASSAULT ON HIM!!

OH WELL,
MAYBE I'LL AMBUSH HIM IN FRONT OF HIS CLASSROOM TOMORROW!!
WE HAVE NO SCHOOL TOMORROW.
Oh
WE DON'T?
SO WE HAVE THE DAY OFF, HUH!
THEN LET'S ALL GO PLAY TOGETHER!
Friends who support each other
Friends who believe in each other
Friends who I want to make from now on
SURE!
My idea of what friends are
continues to change little by little.